

# EDITORIALS

## Coming City Elections

Torrance enters a crucial period in its development as a first class city. The extent and the quality of continued growth largely will depend on the quality of its city administration, more specifically because this is the first time in history the voters will be able to vote for a mayor who will hold office four years.

Because there are so many residents who will be casting their first vote in a Torrance municipal election, it is well that these new citizens of the community know something of the past system so that they may be able to comprehend the importance of their role in the future.

Heretofore the title "Mayor" has been to a great extent honorary. The present mayor was selected by his fellow council members following a sort of "round-robin" precedent. The honor was always passed around to senior council members. Albert Isen was given the gavel by Nick Drale after the latter had served one year, succeeding Mervin Schwab. The realignment of political power in the election of 1956 enabled Mr. Isen to hold on to the title, thus permitting him to get on the ballot this time as an "incumbent."

The voters approved the change in the method of selecting their mayor by direct ballot. At the same time they expanded the council to seven members of the considered theory that it would result in broader representation for the manifold sections of the community and would enable the voters to select a mayor on qualifications implied by the title.

During the next two months alert citizens of the community will be avidly interested in the candidates who hope to represent them in the next city administration. These candidates have offered themselves for public service and are entitled to every consideration. At the same time they have exposed themselves to the white heat of public scrutiny and must expect to be examined for personal, intellectual, and other qualifications expected of any candidate for office.

Torrance needs and must demand the best possible representation on its city council. Personal ambition may be laudable but it is always secondary to the public welfare.

### LAW IN ACTION

## Save Time, Words

Like jurymen, judges try to decide cases upon testimony offered in court, not upon what they otherwise think.

Yet had we but words enough and time, we might have to prove everything talked about in court—the time of the year, month, or day; the country's main geography, dates of notable events, and facts of science.

But since we lack time, our judges must take "judicial notice" of well known fact without proof.

Judicial notice is useful. Ever since California joined the Union, for example, our courts have had to interpret foreign law. Our great land grant cases often called for costly court proof of Spanish and Mexican law.

Until now, all such foreign law applied in our courts had to be proved in expensive documentation and testimony. But thanks to the last session of our legislature, our courts may now take judicial notice of such foreign law to save court time and taxpayers' money.

They do so with certain precautions: (1) The judge may hear advice of experts in open court; (2) the judge may receive written advice of experts, but only if the advice goes into the record of the case; (3) other parties to the lawsuit must know beforehand if one side plans to use judicial notice in this way. Where does such a law find use? It could come up in almost any kind of a case, but quite often it does so in settling the estate of someone with holdings in a foreign land or heirs abroad.

Foreigners may inherit property under California law in lands where our citizens have the same reciprocal rights. Such a foreigner must prove the FACT of our "reciprocity" laws in court as before, but now as a question of law subject merely to judicial notice, rather than as a matter of fact subject to elaborate rules of evidence.

Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

### THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

## Why Did Terror Walk the Streets?

What would you do if you knew there was a killer loose in the streets?

That was the question which haunted residents of Lincoln, Neb., my old home town, last week, as 10 persons gave their lives, the victims of the caprices of a crazy, mixed-up teenager.

A letter from my mother, who still lives there, reports that the reaction of residents there was probably the same as that of people anywhere else. They were scared to death.

A state of emergency was declared and 100 National Guardsmen were called out to patrol various parts of town. Nobody knew where the killer might strike next or whether he was still in the area.

His victims included people from every walk of life—his girl friend's parents and three-year-old sister, two teenagers, a farmer, a steel company executive and his wife, a maid, a service station

operator, and a salesman.

There was terror throughout the town, with the streets nearly deserted at nights, as people watched and waited. There were very few unlocked doors and noticeably fewer husbands went out bowling, leaving their wives at home. Parents kept close watch on their children.

Seldom has one person frightened so many people so much. Starkweather gained the same sort of fame as Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin, although not on as large a scale. Nonetheless, people in surrounding towns and states quivered in their boots, keeping their eyes peeled carefully.

Not until Starkweather and his girl friend were picked up in Wyoming did the panic subside. The 19-year-old boy who wanted to "be somebody" got his wish and apparently in the way he desired. Police still are holding their breaths, hoping that they don't find anybody else who got in the way of the mixed-up killer.

The Starkweather affair is somewhat reminiscent of an incident several years ago in New Jersey, when a crazed war vet marched through a business section, mowing down everybody in sight.

This murder spree, coinci-

dentally, occurred in the same week as a TV program, "The Face of Crime," in which it was pointed out that prisons nowadays are seeking to rehabilitate rather than punish criminals.

Starweather probably will never be rehabilitated, even if he could be, since Nebraska has the death penalty.

Nonetheless, the TV program showed that many lesser offenders go through counseling sessions in which they study their problems, discussing them with other inmates and trained officials. However, the program pointed out the difficulties in public attitude that face even the "rehabilitated" criminal.

The average man is suspicious of an "ex-con," feeling, with some justification, "How can I know what this man is thinking and if he has reformed?"

The human mind is capable of great good or great evil. We can predict the weather or the business cycles better than we can predict what the human mind is likely to do next. We can't make people think good thoughts, nor can we make them behave charitably toward their fellow men.

That's why we sometimes have terror in the streets.

How could we have prevented it?

## Don't Insist Too Much, Boys



- IT MIGHT GIVE HIM IDEAS!



YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

## Minors Majority Here

Dear Ann: We are average American parents with average American children—that is to say they are lazy, disobedient, rebellious, altogether charming and astute politicians.

Our two teenage daughters keep us broke and nervous. The boys, 12 and 9, keep us harried and exhausted.

We don't want to spoil their young fun by being too strict, but they've taken advantage of our generosity and now we can't get them to do anything that faintly resembles work. Also, they are fresh and irresponsible. Most of our friends are having similar problems with their teenage children.

Several months ago the kids hit the idea of "family court," with each member of the family having one vote. Of course we always lose because the kids gang up on us and vote as a solid block.

They say the majority should rule in a democratic set-up. What can we do? We are outnumbered.—MINORITY STOCKHOLDERS

The kids not only have you outnumbered, they also have you out-smarted. The majority rule is fine—for governments. But it doesn't work so well in mental institutions, penitentiaries, or families

with more than two children. The sad truth is, my friends, you are scared to death of your kids and they know it.

Lower the boom and start to call the signals before your children are beyond hope. Not only do they NEED discipline, but believe it or not, they WANT it.

Adolescents must feel some solid ground beneath their feet. Kids who can do as they darn well please are neither happy nor secure. You owe it to your children to guide them with a firm (but loving) hand.

CONFIDENTIAL: A CRYING MOTHER: If you'll quit crying long enough to read the above letter, I'll find your answer.

Dear Ann: I just finished reading the letter from the woman who complained bitterly because her 80-year-old mother-in-law lives 150 miles away and they have to go visit her several times a year. Is this woman nuts or what? My mother-in-law is 78 and lives in the same town with us and drives the family crazy. We'd give anything if she lived 150 miles away and was able to take care of herself.

I used to think advice columns were the bunk, but the

more I see of yours the more convinced I am that yours serves a good purpose. Reading about other people's problems can sometimes make me realize how well off we are. I hope the woman who wrote that letter sees this one.

I'd gladly make her a deal, Ann. If she'll put with my mother-in-law, I will be more than happy to go visit her "several times a year." —MRS. QUACKENBUSH

Dear Ann: I need help. I am a girl 18, normal in every way, yet I've never had a date. Several nice boys have asked me out, but my father says I am not to go with boys until I am 21 because they are all after one thing and can't be trusted with a girl who is under-age.

My mother is scared to death of my father, so don't tell me to ask her to talk to him. She won't do it.

I'll be 19 in two months and I am miserable. Whenever he hears a girl has gone wrong he gives me a two-hour lecture and says "I know what I am doing. You will thank me some day." What can I do?—CAGED

You need the help of a third party—someone for whom your father has respect. Perhaps your clergyman or a teacher can talk to him and make him see that his unfairness could ruin your life.

If he refuses to listen, he is sick, sick, sick, and you should plan to leave home as soon as you can do so legally.

CONFIDENTIAL: SWANEE: Tell him no dice. If you stand still for a part-time fiancee you're inviting a full-time headache. Back with the ring, Toots.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of THE HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (C) 1958, Field Enterprises, Inc.

Advertisement for 'ON YOUR GUARD' featuring a soldier and the text 'GREAT GUARDSMAN AUDIE MURPHY THE MOST DECORATED SOLDIER OF WORLD WAR II IS A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD.'

## Elks Club Leader Tells Plan To Explain Narcotic Dangers

(The following article was prepared by J. A. Yates, chairman of the anti-narcotics educational program sponsored here by the Torrance Elks Lodge. The lodge is currently holding a series of meetings for representatives of Torrance organizations wishing to work for the "preservation of our youth.")

The Elks of Torrance Lodge 1948 invite you, as citizens and parents of our future citizens, to join with us in a fight against the rapidly accelerating rate of narcotics addiction among our teenage children. If we are cognizant of the continued warning of the Grand Jury, our law enforcement agencies, and medical men, then we must act soon or we will have passed the "point of no return."

A definite and well organized plan is in action to enslave our sons and daughters through the medium of illicit narcotics. They are given false information on the subject, then sold the stuff for nickles and dimes in order that they may become customers for a pusher.

This leads eventually to the use of heroin and all its horrible implications. Proof of the success of this plan is all around us. Almost daily our newspapers carry reports of crime, traceable directly to narcotics. The recent report of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury bares the truth in all its horror. Law enforcement personnel are fighting a hopeless battle. These men must have the power of public opinion behind them if they are to carry on their work effectively.

We wonder how this can happen in an enlightened society such as ours, but the answer is simple. So long as we remain complacent, refuse to recognize what is happening to us, maintain a let-George-do-it attitude, and because of this, fail to take a determined stand to correct the situation, then the success of this deadly enemy is assured.

Law enforcement agencies charged with this work are in general agreement that education is the only means of

possibly stemming the tide of narcotics addiction. Certainly only the tremendous power of public opinion and demand can force enactment of sufficient laws and enable prosecution of such laws. That public opinion must come from you, Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, and from you only.

If you demand the laws, you will get them. Concerted action by all our citizens is the only means of giving our law enforcement agencies the backing which they so sorely need in order to work effectively against this menace.

Education of our teenagers also rests squarely upon our shoulders as parents. They must be made to know the facts concerning narcotics. Discuss the subject freely with them, being sure to leave no doubt in their minds as to the disastrous effects of addiction. It is only through knowledge of the horrible truth that they will be prepared to resist the false information which dope pushers and other addicts offer so freely. We must stop sending our children forth each day among addicts of their own age and pushers who craftily become their associates, in complete ignorance of the terrible consequences of narcotics addiction.

During the past four months, members of the Torrance Elks Lodge have conducted an investigation into this illicit narcotics situation as it involves our youth. The facts we have gathered and which will be revealed at the meetings are, for the most part, documented—shocking and horrible in their implications.

The 90-year history of Elksdom has been one of distinguished service to our people and to our country. We are very proud and quite jealous of our great heritage and it

is our greatest desire to preserve it. Over the years, the Order of the Elks has expanded many millions of dollars on our youth activities. We do these things, not for publicity, but to ensure that our young people will grow up to be decent and honorable citizens, because we realize that the youth of today is the America of tomorrow.

We want to know that they will be capable of carrying on in the wonderful traditions of our forefathers. Thus, it is only fitting that, recognizing the extreme gravity of the present narcotics situation, we are prompted to enter the fight along with other patriotic and public spirited organizations.

We ask that every service club, church group, educational group, and fraternal order in our community appoint a representative to attend our meetings and become a member of this worthwhile endeavor.

We especially invite parents to come. Teenagers, if accompanied by their parents, will be welcome.

Our efforts in this connection will be nonpolitical and nonsectarian. They will be confined to education of parents and teenage children on the subject of narcotics addiction. Our sole interest lies in the protection, through education, of all the families in our community, and of our country.

Motion pictures and speakers familiar with the subject will be used in the series along with printed material to be studied at home and used as a basis of conversation with children on the subject.

The next meeting of the group will be Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Elks hall at 1851 W. Carson St. The meeting starts at 8 p.m.

### THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

## It's A Wintertime Treat

A year ago when we were reporting about the Brattleboro, Vt., celebration of its selection as an All America city along with Torrance, we said they were having a community fete in the city park including "sugar on the snow (whatever that is)."

Well, Mrs. George Gauthier, of Keene, N. H., who was visiting her son, Glenn, in north Torrance at the time, called to tell me all about the New England custom of taking advantage of two natural resources—maple syrup and snow.

I am now in receipt of more information on the subject, including pictures, recipes, and magazine stories. Mrs. Gauthier has not given up in her efforts to convince me that sugar on the snow is "lickin' good."

For those who have never tried this winter treat, we'll pass along some of the hints for a successful sugar-on-the-snow party.

First, according to Vermont sources, you need a gallon of pure Vermont maple syrup—of which there is no whicher, they say.

To start out, you boil the syrup down to sugar, keeping the heat applied until the sugar clings to a fork as soft wax taffy. After it cools down to 150°, the sugar is poured in bite-sized glob of it onto firm cups or pans of snow. It should make a soft, waxy taffy on the snow if everything's right.

The sugar-on-the-snow treat is so popular, in fact, that the Vermont Division of Markets has made available an ice shaving machine and sugaring-off pan operated on bottled gas so the treat can be enjoyed in the summertime as well.

We thank you, Mrs. Gauthier, and promise to try it at our first opportunity. Really.

A business college which displayed a poster offering "A short course in accounting for women," soon had the poster down after someone scribbled boldly on it: "There is no accounting for women."

## Sessions on Business Day

Plans for a March 17 "Business-Industry-Education" day here will be discussed Thursday, according to O. R. Trueblood, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Thursday's session will be held at the city hall council chambers at 3:45 p.m. More than 900 teachers of

the Torrance Unified School District will meet with business and industrial leaders in March, according to the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce. The program is designed to give teachers and business and industrial leaders a chance to discuss the workings of the free enterprise system.

### THE "SOVEREIGN" STATES?



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